

Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Plan

Restoration Plan Database: Crystal Reports of Individual Plan Summaries

I. BASIC PLAN DATA

Plan name:

Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Plan

Brief description of plan:

Planning document covers the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins, Mississippi River and Atchafalaya River.

Region the plan is located within:

Gulf of Mexico Region

Watershed(s) included within the plan:

G190x , G200x , G210x , G220x

Area plan covers (in square miles):

6,500.00 square miles

Plan scale:

Multi-county

Plan's lead organization(s):

Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

Plan's Main Contact Information:

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On-line version of plan:

Date of original plan:

6/1996

II. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Plan includes restoration goals: Y

Level of detail of the goals:

MS

Summary of the goals:

Overall goals are included in the plan's Ecological Management Action Plans and consist of: EM-1 Hydrological Restoration, EM-2 Freshwater and Sediment Diversions, EM-3 Evaluate the Effectiveness of Reactivation of Bayou Lafourche as a Distributary Channel of the Mississippi River, EM-4 Beneficial Use of Dredged and Non-Indigenous Material, EM-5 Preservation and Restoration of Barrier Islands, EM-6 Shoreline Stabilization and Induced Deposition, and EM-7 Marsh Management.

Plan recommends or uses criteria for selecting restoration sites (e.g. cost benefit ratio, ecological benefits):

Y

Summary of the criteria:

A framework will be established that encourages landowners to manage their land in a way that maximizes its suitability as habitat for resident and migratory birds. This action will identify important habitat areas, work to preserve and restore them, and establish means by which landowners and government agencies can work together to maintain them.

Plan recommends restoration of specific project sites:

Y

Plan includes a discussion of funding sources:

N

Plan addresses long-term protection of restored sites:

Y

Partners included in developing the plan:

Federal
State
Local
Port Authorities/Commissions
Tribes
Business/Industry
Non-profit Organizations
Academia
Foundations
Private landowners

Type(s) of public outreach included during plan development:

Held public workshops, meetings, open house, or scoping meetings
Held focus groups
Kept a contact list of interested parties
Mailed or e-mailed information to a contact list
Set up a toll-free telephone number to receive comments
Conducted surveys
Formed an advisory group(s)
Involved the media through news releases, public service announcements, etc.
Was subject to a public comment period

Plan includes public outreach as part of plan implementation (e.g. annual public meeting, local group participation):

Y

Plan discusses the application of innovative approaches to restoration:

Y

Summary of the discussion:

1. The incorporation of actions involving attention to preserving the rich cultural heritage of the BTNEP as an essential component of restoration. 2. The use of freshwater diversions, including rain water pumped from the many (~250) drainage pump stations over levees into adjacent wetlands to stimulate degrading marshes.

Plan make use of GIS mapping capabilities:

N

Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for ecosystem level monitoring (baseline conditions) by:

S

Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for project level monitoring by:

S

The plan discusses or coordinates with other restoration plans covering the same geographic area:

N

Other plan names:

Plan contains detailed information on historic and/or current habitat size, rate of loss, acres restored or protected, etc.):

Y

Summary of this habitat information:

The causes of habitat loss include both human (drainage, canal construction and erosion, spoil banks, land reclamation, flood control, impoundments and highway construction) and natural(subsidence, decay of abandoned river deltas, waves, and storms). Studies through 1978 showed that over 11,500 acres of land were being lost per year due to subsidence or other factors. The rate in 1990 was estimated at almost 13,500 acres per year. It has been estimated that over 294,000 acres of marsh were converted to open water between 1956 and 1978. The Barataria and Terrebonne basins are experiencing between 50 and 61 percent of the land loss for the entire state. An example of canals having negative impact can be seen where spoil banks have impounded large sections of wetland forests, resulting in year-round flooding; projections indicate that these forests will completely die out in less than 150 years if the flooding continues.